

Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Department of Housing & Community Development

About the H-EAT Program

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is pleased to tell you about the new Heat and Eat (H-EAT) Fuel Assistance Program. This is a special Fuel Assistance benefit provided to low-income households identified by the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). By receiving this special Fuel Assistance benefit you may qualify for a discount with your utility and telephone companies.

DHCD has automatically enrolled your household in the H-EAT Program. Enclosed is a \$1.00 H-EAT payment check from Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. This check will be void after 90 days of its issue date, but you may still qualify for a utility discount and increased food stamps. This is a one-time benefit for 12 months. Depending on your situation, you may get another H-EAT Fuel Assistance payment next year.

Your monthly food stamp benefits may have increased because special rules allow Fuel Assistance recipients to have their food stamp income calculated using higher shelter costs. If so, you will have already received a letter from

DTA telling you your new food stamp benefit amount.

You can show the food stamp letter to your utility companies and ask for a discount on your monthly bills.

If you are not currently receiving a utility discount for your electricity or heating bills, you may be able to qualify for such discount because you receive either food stamps and/or fuel assistance. You may get a telephone discount if you receive fuel assistance.

Depending on your individual situation, you may be eligible for regular Fuel Assistance benefits, which will start up again in November 2007. Fuel Assistance can help you with heating costs and, for some households, pay a portion of the rent.

If you have questions about the \$1.00 H-EAT benefit and utility discounts, you can call DHCD at:

1-800-632-8175

What is Fuel Assistance?

Fuel Assistance or the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides eligible households with help in paying a portion of winter heating bills.

Payments for actual usage or fuel delivery are made directly to the heating vendor from November 1st to April 30th except when the cost of heating is included in the rent. In general, a subsidized housing tenant whose heat is included in rent and pays less than 30% of their income towards rent is not eligible for Fuel Assistance.

Eligibility must be determined at one of the local Fuel Assistance provider agency. To locate the nearest Fuel Assistance provider in your area, please call the DHCD Heat Line at:

1-800-632-8175



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